TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

BY

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JUNE DIARY OF TERRANCE FEELEY

It was all quiet at the church hall as we went in, noting the high windows and musty smell ,we walked over the blue and pink tiled oblong assembly room to an open plan kitchen .

LORA It’s a bit dusty in this church hall isn’t it Jeremy.
JERAMY You lot are hard to please aren’t you , the dust is probably from the scouts bringing their camping gear and airing it before storing it in the lock up next to us.

STANLEY pops his head through a serving hatch to find the players of the NEWTOWN amateur dramatics club sitting together on a semi-circle on fold up chairs in front of a raised stage reading through the script for TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES.

JAMES I’m here to ask CLEAVLAND to hold a seance to contact my pets SQUIDGY & SPECKLEY.
ANN FITZFERALD Oh no, lost pets are they?
JAMES They where my pet terrapins that i found dead this morning in the tank at the bottom of my bed .
GRAHAM ANYTHING FOR A PARTY , you know me .
STRINGFELLOW yA, HEAD GIRL AT my grammar school .
LORA I’ll go and say hello to HETTIE and the players, you coming. MICHEL SULIVAN He's too busy texting miz Panorama chemicals 2005 so I'll come. STRINGFELLOW yes she's older now she's not a girl anymore she's a woman . DAVID MANNING yeah when she won the beauty contest was 25 so that makes a 40 ANN FITTZGERALD 40 that's the way you like them .
STRINGFELLOW Yes have you seen the poster,for this play. The chamber of commerce has increased the budget for this film to $22,000.
GRAHAM I'll come as well Laura. I fancy treading the boards for truth or consequences.
The two boys follow LORA and enter the main hall ,over the blue and pink floor tiles to where the players sitting in a circle of chrome and wicker chairs in front of the baby blue crushed velvet curtains reading through a script . Hetti Winthrop is the only player in full costume as THE DEVIL .
HETTIE WAINTHROPE Oh the TRAFALGAR GANG are here , we've come up with the idea that your gang shall be in crowd scenes and stage hands for the major scene changes.
SID MOTRUM The five main scenes being our JASON working on a

production line, CHANTEL waking up at the TV studio's , Chantel training to be a nurse and meeting JASON at the launderette.

HETTIE WAINTHROPE SAINT PETER played by JACOB FARLEY starts the show with the opening titles.

JACOB FALEY Hi how are you and thanks for sorting out our Sids plumbing, his flat was becoming impossible to hold a Mozart club in. Yes I did write a cheap novela about teething trouble before you ask.

DAVID GARDNER sO WE HOLDIN THIS SEANCE AT YOUR FLAT SID what with your boiler for the whole building playing up

TIM CURRY [LEMON PULOVER AND CREAM SLACKS] I want to contact my Auntie Murial, and ask if i should USE MYSTIC FOLLICLE REGAIN SOLUTION

ANN FITZGERALD OH THAT HAIR TONIC sold in clubs and bars made by PANORAMA CHEMICALS

HETTIE WAINTHROPE This is our Chantel , Originally played by WENDY SNOGRASS before that terrible tragedy on the opening night.

A young willowy blonde in a Donnay international white track suit says [hello boys I'm a checkout assistant at Sainsbury's so don't you get any ideas.]

HETTIE WAINTHROPE So one of you boys are in luck as they get an important line in the first scene, and we don't mind which one of you it is so you choose and come back to us in ten minutes and we'll run through, ok.

GRAHAM Alright then Hettie we'll be back in a jiffy.

They go back to the gang , who are still assembled in the kitchen.

STRINGFELLOW Right then, we have a speaking part for one of us in the opening scene so who wants to be in the credits as "the forman "

GRAHAM That's it , one of us shall tell the lead to get a move on and pass the box down the production line.

DAVID I Better do it lads I won't mess it up.

STANLEY I'll have you know I have an acting bent in my family.

JAMES YES, your dad needs to be , what with pretending to do double shifts at the co-op and sneaking round that knocking shop to see Marta Hair.

STANLEY THAT IS A VICIOUS slander and I don't like you besmirching the name of the Ratchet's.

JAMES Oh sorry STANLEY, give us another MARYLAND.

That evening the players pull up in a 7.5 tonne truck for the performance of TRUTH or CONSEQUENCES at NEWTOWN RECREATION GROUND and Sid Motrum gets out of the front passenger seat. He walks to the back of the truck and opens the back up.

HETTIE WAINTHROP Well done Sid, you don't have to change as you're the voice of GOD.

SID That just means I need a microphone and have a bath or shower.

The TRAFALGAR GANG start taking sets out of the van to set up in the central field where chairs are being put out ready. As they install a mock conveyor belt for the first scene they say hi to RUFFUS, ROY AND ROGER putting out CROME and WICKER chairs donated ST LUKES church.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN Alright for a drink later to celebrate then Ruffus.
RUFFUS If you can fix me up with MS PANORAMA chemicals 2010 . DAVID MANNING yeah she'll only be 30 not like that one STRINGFELLOW was looking at earlier .
JAMES GRAINGER Don't you worry mate I got my mum wrapped around my little finger as long as I take Mrs Aspinal her tea. She'll be here soon with rolling thunder and I recon bubba and Ski gonna stay for the performance.
LORA ALL our parents are coming , even my dad. JAMES Good we can mess behave in front of the headmaster and he can't do a thing about it.
SID MOTRUM This play was set to open at the LONDON PALLADIUM IN 1987, but a fire stopped the opening night.

They see Farley adjusting his tie in the back of the truck, and the audience starts to arrive. STRINGFELLOW SHAW Ah the man who wrote the book on teething trouble doesn't get stage fright.
JACOB FARLEY YES THAT WAS ME, WITH RUSKS IN MY HIGH CHAIR

WHEN SCENE 1 IS READY THEY ALL TAKE A SEAT AT THE FRONT ROW WITH THE RUFFUS, ROY ,AND ROJER.

The players come out into the stage area.....

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES ACT 1 SCENE 1 A DARK STUDIO BECOMES A PRODUCTION LINE WHERE JASON IS WORKING .He is wearing gray overall and a hair net and moving a box off a conveyor belt onto a blue pallet.

GOD THAT MAN HAD SUCH POTENTIAL I NEED HIM UP HERE WITH ME. A MAN OF STATURE AND PROPERTY RESPECTED IN HIS COMMUNITY ALAS REDUCED TO THE FACTORY DRONE WE SEE BEFORE US.

Forman get a move on Jason

JESSICA Angel He had a few grand in the bank, sir and you know what that means when your young.

THE DEVIL BUT I WANT HIM IN BEIJING, CHINA TEACHING ENGLISH AND DEMOCRACY TO THE COMMUNIST MASSES , NOT HERE AS A PRODUCTION LINE KILLJOY,

GOD HE HAS A FLAIR FOR GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNICATION.

JESSICA ANGEL JASON GOT AN ECONOMICS A LEVEL AT THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL YOUR HIGHNESS.

GOD IT'S NO GOOD DEMOCRACY IS ABOUT TO GO INTO OVERDRIVE

THE DEVIL I WANT HIM IN BEIJING now, NOT DOWN THERE.WHAT HAPPENED.

FURTHER ALONG THIS PRODUCTION LINE RICHARD IS CHECKING INVENTORY FOR DELIVERY.

THE DEVIL I WANTED HIM IN WALL STREET JESSICA THERE BETTER BE AN EXPLANATION.

JESSICA ANGEL She did it to both of them, it was CHARLEIN.

GOD How can I stimulate developing countries if the investors don’t invest

JESSICA I BOW TO YOUR WISDOM

THE DEVIL I want her on TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES tonight sir and give Richard and Jason the keys to the city.

GOD SEE TO IT THEN JESSICA.

SCENE 2 A dark studio set lights up with two panels of teams with a chair in the middle.

ST PETER comes out from the back of the studio and strolls THROUGH large iron gates with cardboard cherubs sitting on clouds, before opening his arms in welcome to the studio audience.

ST PETER I've been dragged out of bed once again to sort out this candidate for them up there, so welcome to the show and I'm I charge.

THE AUDIENCE CLAPS TO CANNED LAUGHTER

ST PETER Bring in the accused.

CHARLEINE is led in by a man in a dark suit, wearing a white shell suit, and she stands before ST PETER .

ST PETER HERE SHE IS BOYS and girls LET'S give a big hand for Charlene.

THE AUDIENCE CLAPS TO CANNED LAUGHTER

ST PETER For those of you who never made it before I'll let you thank me later, but the rules of this game are simple. CHARLEIN here has to give us a resolution to God's dilemma or face a fire and brimstone.

And as always round one means trial by jury, so let's meet them now.

CHERUBS take me down to the paradise city where the grass is green and the girls are pretty

Prosecution for the Devil tonight we have our team captain GROTBAGS.

SHE BEEN HAVING TOO MUCH BLACK PUDDING, THE DIRTY LITTLE WHORE.

GROTBAGS And with me this evening is THE RIGHT HONORABLE HARVEY PROCTOR

AND SID MOTRUM

THE AUDIENCE CLAPS TO CANNED LAUGHTER

DEFENDING FOR THE ANGELS TONIGHT WE HAVE JESSICA angel

JESSICA THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH A BIT OF BLACK PUDDING GROTBAGS, MAYBE SHE WAS HUNGRY.

AND ON MY TEAM TONIGHT I HAVE

REV TERRY WAITE-SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

JESSICA singer songwriter Stevie wonder

WONDER Out of ten I'll still give her one. Don't worry Terry I wouldn't climb over her to get to you.

CHERUBS SEE THE FACE YOU LOVE LIGHT UP WITH TERRYS ALL GOLD

THE AUDIENCE CLAPS TO CANNED LAUGHTER

CHARLIE You can see me later Steve

ST PETER Now CHARLIE it's entirely up to you. Come this way.

ST PETER leads CHARLEIN to the front of the stage and says, you have a choice.

ST PETER You can either accept God's judgment and be cast into the fiery pit of flame before you, or take what's in these boxes.

To stage left are three boxes.

ST PETER To avoid the pit of fire below you answer this question. Is there a G spot?

CHARLEIN I'm Not sure, mister , I've been known to wet the baby's head like other girls.

GROTBAGS SHE KNOWS NOTHING about nothing, cast her into the pit.

JESSICA DON'T HURT HER , WE'RE CRYING OUR EYE'S OUT.

A stone slab is pulled away from a mechanics pit where molten slurry and fire comes up with intense heat.

ST PETER You're safe there actually is a g spot, cover up the pit of fire.

The stone slab comes back over covering the pit of flame.

SID MOTRUM And they still blame me for the three day week and the blackouts.

ST PETER Most of us are glad you didn't cut the queens jubilee Jim

CHERUBS HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING.

ST PETER You are coming back her after whether or not him upstairs wants you or not .

99 yes though she's a looker though we wouldn't want her thrown into that mechanics pit with all that molten slurry .

THE AUDIENCE CLAPS TO CANNED LAUGHTER

St Peter Though but first pick a box.

He leads CHARLEIN over to stage left where three boxes are positioned up the

SID MOTRUM says “ I wish I had this show in parliament “

THE AUDIENCE CLAPS TO CANNED LAUGHTER

CHERUBS Take me down to the paradise city where the grass is green and the girls are pretty.

ST PETER Well done Charlene you’ve managed to avoid the pit of fire this time , but don’t forget it's waiting for you. No CHARLEIN I have to ask you, are you a religious girl.

CHARLEIN Moore reformist than ORTHODOX St peter, go on let me win.

ST PETER The reason I ask this question is that we give each contestant the chance to prove their faith and jump into that pit of flame they so desire.

CHALRLEIN My lucks still in and I never volunteer for anything

ST PETER Oh what a shame as we’re always on the lookout for true believers willing to put their faith to the test.

Before you make up your mind though we ask our defense council to cross examine.

He leads CHARLEIN over to the middle chair between the two judges panels and asks her to sit down.From the top comes a large picture of JASON and RICHARD

JESSICA Don’t worry CHARLEINE I put it about a bit and know I’ve got my one line of cosmetics, and can be seen by millions as a hero.

LEARY As I’ve already said I’ll give you one and I’m a jet set millionaire

TERRY WAITE As I’ve said before there’s redemption for everyone.

ST PETER THAT’S GOOD ADVISE GIRL WELL DONE TO THE DEFENCE COUNCIL.~

So what do the prosecution have to say?

GROTBAGS If JASON was my son I would hire a hit man or get my family on to you. I don’t like having nice hard working young men getting exploited .

HARVEY PROCTOR Besides if you had shown some love and affection then you would both have prospects and careers and we would not have to do this to you.

SID MOTRUM He could have joined my cabinet , a young firebrand with a vision.

ST PETER Now CHARLEIN you have a chance to redeem yourself.

GOD That’s right I don’t want to lose you my dear

ST PETER `You have the chance to go and get RICHARD AND JASON out of the factory and on the path of glory, helping where YOU are best suited as god intended. And when you come back it won't be for capital punishment.

PROCTOR I still want some of that less terminal punishment.

ST PETER Thank you HARVEY , WHEN YOU COME BACK WE WANT GOOD NEWS and this is your one chance. There's no escape for you now look at me when I'm talking to you.

You might find friends won't want to know you until you complete our little task we have sent you and there's no chance of escape.

Though you're in luck as we are sending you out with our favorite Devil GROTBAGS, WHO WILL HELP AND GUIDE YOU in your mission to save the souls of our two boys for the almighty.

GROTBAGS Come on there you dirty slapper.

GROTBAGS and CHARLENE leave the stage and walk through the iron gates with the cardboard cherubs on top.

ST PETER Best of luck CHARLIE our hopes go with you. Well what has shown it's been and we shall be back next week to find out how CHARLEIN is getting on and to give another contestant the chance to SHOW the truth or consequences.

So it's goodbye from JESSICA ANGEL AND HERE TWO ANGELS STEVIE WONDER AND TERRY WAITE AND OUR TWO DEVILS HARVEY PROCTOR AND SID MOTRUM.

And remember girls bachelors are only bachelors tile you make them a cup a soup and they need affection too/ Don't end up before me here or it could cost you your immortal soul.

The studio fades to black

SCENE 3

A park bench next to a phone box.

CHARLEIN IS IN THE PHONE BOX MAKING A PHONE CALL.

When she gets out GROTBAGS gets off her bench and says

GROTBAGS Well what did I tell you we make sure you don't run away and there won't be anywhere else for you.

CHARLEIN Don't talk to me you old hag I've got lots of friends.

GROTBAGS GRABS HER BY HER JACKET AND PULLS HER TOWARDS HER.

GROTBAGS LISTENS YOYO KNICKERS, What are you going to do about it then. I'M the devil as far as you're concerned so you better get used to it or you could meet the real devil and he isn't as lady-like as I am.

CHARLEIN I must have been working on my back hand, what does that mean, anyway how do I know you are all powerful

GROTBAGS This is real life and it ain't no movie , though you get three wishes so what do you want

CHARLENE I'm A BIT HUNGRY now and I would like a hamburger, fries, cherry coke and a chocolate brownie.

GROTBAGS Alright then walk this way.

She leads CHARLEIN over to a fast food bar to stage left where a pimply faced man with a red and white hat on is serving from a hatch just brought in by THE TRAFALGAR GANG.

CHARLIE And stop calling me names.

GROTBAGS ORDERS BURGERS AND BRINGS THEM OVER

GROTBAGS There you go my girl positive proof that I'm the devil. Now what are you planning?

THEY TUCK IN TO THERE MEAL AND START DISCUSSING THE ASSIGNMENT.

GROTBAGS You either get these two boys sorted OR it will be the end for you now what's the plan. You realize they won't touch you with a barge pole now they realize what a money grabber you are, and you're facing certain doom.

CHARLEIN Barge pole, what about a private dance for both of them.

GROTBAGS They need sorting out or your for the final resting place.

CHARLEIN I'll make them my boyfriends somehow, did you hear that God, nice burgers these are.

GROTBAGS I'll LEAVE YOU NOW BUT MY AGENTS WILL BE WATCHING OVER YOU.

GROTBAGS walks off to the stage left past the food kiosk and then stops and turns around. "And you forgot your prize " and she throws her A PACK OF DUREX ULTRA THAT WHISTLE DIXIE WHEN YOU CUM sayING " Better the devil you know than the devil you don't"

GOD BEST OF LUCK CHARLIE, I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN ON NEXT WEEKS exciting edition of truth or consequences

THE CROWD CHEERS TO CANNED LAUGHTER. And starts to dissipate out of the recreation ground.

STRINGFELLOW SHAW How about that play, I didn’t expect it to go down so well.

HETTIE WAITHROP bounds over to them saying “ well done lads and I’ll want your help on my next production , write hear at IPSWICH REC.

DAVID Go on then Hettie astound us, what are you planning.

HETTIE WAITHROP It’s a sketch show called SUFFERING SUCCOTASH and I want the Trafalgar gang to star in it. What do you say?

JERAMY Bet you want my vicarage to practice in don’t you Hettie.

HETTIE WAITHROP well I hadn’t considered I was going to use the common room back home.

STRINGFELLOW No Hettie he said you will use the church hall to practice in , alright

HETTIE WAITHROP I’ll phone your dad then and book some rehearsal time.

STRINGFELLOW ANYWAY WE IS GOING YOUR WAY , so how about a lift from one of your players.

HETTIE WAITHROP Come on then lads, and this time you can write some sketches for SUFFERIN SUCCOTASH.

GOD SID MOTRUM

DEVIL…. .MR WAINWRIGHT

JESSICA ANGEL… PRASILA MORLEY

GROTBAGS HETTY WAINTHROPP

JASON HIMSELF

RICHARD MARK GREENSTREET

CHARLEIN HERSELF

ST PETER JACOB FARLEY

CHERUBS IPSWICH BARBER SHOP QUARTET

TERRY WAIT HIMSELF

notes by SID MOTRUM

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